

Editor's Introduction



While editing articles, especially those with genealogical summaries, I often attempt to point out *Mayflower* descents of the subject's spouses. A major aid has been our database on AmericanAncestors.org, where a family tree constructed for each *Mayflower* passenger can be viewed in AmericanAnceSTREES, which contains individuals from all applications of people born before January 1, 1920. This has also allowed me to observe where a descendant of any given couple may have joined the Mayflower Society. Going forward, when the abbreviation "GSMD" appears after a couple in a genealogical summary in this journal, it signifies that a descendant of that couple has joined the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

We begin this issue with the remarks made last summer by our President D. Brenton Simons at the **Ceremony of Remembrance** at Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth, having served as Vice Chair of the Plymouth 400th Anniversary State Commission. His remarks highlight the inclusive goal of the four-nation commemoration, its challenges during the pandemic, and the commission's several successes.

Continuing with the Notable *Mayflower* series, Richard Hall summarizes the Howland and Tilley descents of astronaut **Story Musgrave**, whose line includes several generations of people interred at Mount Auburn Cemetery, shown on our cover.

Thomas Foster of Plymouth, Husband of Mary Morton, by Edward Charles Horton, explores past scholarship on Thomas Foster (1705–1777) of Plymouth, who married twice—first, to an Edward Fuller and John Howland descendant, and, second, to a Francis Cooke and Stephen Hopkins descendant. Thomas had nine children by his first wife and eleven by the second. Horton's article argues that this Thomas Foster married both women; past printed treatments had treated them as two different men of the same name.

I continue my series on **The Orcutt Family of Scituate, Bridgewater, and Weymouth, Massachusetts** with three generations of descendants of William Orcutt's granddaughter Deliverance Orcutt, wife of Joseph Washburn and Abiel Packard; by the former she had eight children and seventy-three grandchildren!

Sarah, Wife of Moses Simmons of Duxbury: A Possible Parentage, by Raymond T. Wing, proposes a plausible identification for the matriarch of the Simmons family of Plymouth, through documents on a neighboring family.

Christopher Carter Lee's **Mehetabel Packard of North Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and Readfield and Hallowell, Maine: an Alden and Cooke Descendant** identifies the later history of a seventh-generation Cooke and sixth-generation Alden descendant, who was previously thought to have died as a young adult but married and had eight children.

While the Barbour Collection is often cited for Connecticut Vital Records, occasional transcription mistakes have been found. Katrina Fahy's article, **The Parentage of Elizur Gates: A Thomas Rogers Line**, corrects one example—the 1770 East Haddam birth of Elizur Gates was misread as *Oliver*. The article identifies Elizur's later move to New York state, his marriage, and eight children.

The first installment of a two-part article, **A Search for Lydia (Winslow) Montgomery's Father Reveals a Lost Branch of Winslows in Eighteenth-Century Lincoln County, Maine**, Lael Montgomery and Rhonda R. McClure, covers largely unnoticed Winslow descendants of Governor Edward Winslow's brother Kenelm.

Andrew P. Langlois continues his transcription of **Wellfleet Vital Records, 1763–1844**, Peter Burgess continues his record series **Eastham and Truro [Mass.] Town Records, 1671–1783**, and Scott Andrew Bartley's summarizes *Mayflower* scholarship in journals and a few books and databases in **Seen Elsewhere in 2020**.

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—Christopher Challenger Child